Recent shallow water ostracod assemblage from Giang Thanh River, Southern Vietnam

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Abstract

Fifty-seven benthic ostracod species were identified from six samples collected from the river mouth of the Giang Thanh River, in southern Vietnam. The results of Q-mode cluster analysis indicate that the ostracod assemblage in the Giang Thanh River is divided into four biofacies. Biofacies I is characterized by *Heterocypris* sp. 1 and some freshwater cypridid ostracods. Biofacies II is dominated by *Caudites huyeni*, *Stigmatocythere bona*, and *Tanella gracilis* s.l., which live on the sandy bottom of the river mouth. Biofacies III consists of *Cytherelloidea excavata* and *Neomonoceratina mediterranea malayensis*, which are typically found in tropical waters. *Cytherelloidea excavata* with soft parts occurred abundantly in three samples collected at depths of less than 3.0 m. Our results reveal that *C. excavata* and *N. mediterranea malayensis* can be good water quality indicators for shallow muddy bottom waters of river mouth environments in tropical areas. Biofacies IV is characterized by *Neosinocythere dekrooni* and *Keijella carriei*, which live in organic compound-rich environments.